do away with licensing of all kinds of Industries and of any size; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Government's New Industrial Licensing Policy is as yet under formulation.

New Industrial Policy

359. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when Government propose to announce the new industrial policy; and

(b) what are the Industries which will be given top priority for development in the country by multinationals and M. R. T. P. houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Government's New Industrial Policy is as yet under formulation.

Shortage of Supply of Fertilisers to Farmers

360. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to avoid any shortage of supply of fertilisers to farmers during the current year; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

The gap between the requirement of the fertilisers and the indigenous availability is usually met by imports. Arrangements are being made to meet the demand of the current year by the unused opening stock at the commencement of the year and indigenous production as well as import. MMTC, which is the canalising agency for the import of fertilisers, has been contracting the import of DAP, MOP, Phosphoric acid, rock phosphate, sulphur etc. for meeting the gap between the requirement and the indigenous availability. The entire production and supply system is being subject to close monitoring. Arrangements are being made to move the materials expeditiously from plants and ports to consumption centres by close coordination with the Railways. The distribution is also being reviewed with the manufacturers and handling agents periodically.

Proposal to Amend Prasar Bharati Bill

361. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to implement the Prasar Bharati Act;

(b) whether Government are considering a proposal to make some amendments to the present Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUM. GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Preparatory work leading to establishment of the Prasar Bharati and introduction of competition in the electronic media has commenced.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, if necessary. However, it is not possible at this stage to spell out the details of such amendments, if any. The Government is committed to set up the Prasar Bharati and to introduce competition in the electronic media.

Prices of Imported Chemicals and Fertilisers

362. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: